

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A bumper for an umbrella having a shank with a top end and a sliding ring mounted on the shank, the bumper made of resilient material and comprising:

a securing end [(32)] adapted to be secure under the top end of the shank and having a narrow distal edge and multiple slits defined in the narrow distal edge of the secured end;

a serpentine middle portion [(34)] formed adjacent to the securing end [(32)] and operationally compressed to provide [(an)] shock-absorbing ~~efficieney~~effect;

an abutting end [(36)] formed adjacent to the serpentine middle portion [(34)] and adapted to operationally stop the sliding ring; and

a straight through hole defined through the securing end [(32)], the serpentine middle portion [(34)] and the abutting end (36) ~~to allow the bumper to mount on~~for extension of the shank.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The bumper for an umbrella as claimed in claim 1, wherein the abutting end [(36)] is shaped as a cubic block.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)